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Pair Charged With Capital Murder of Two Teenage Girls in Montecito Heights

Two suspected gang members were charged today with murdering two teenage girls whose bodies were found in a Montecito Heights park last October, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jose Antonio Echeverria (dob 3/31/97), aka Klepto, and Dallas Stone Pineda (dob 9/2/98), aka Trippy, face two counts each of murder with the special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and the crimes were gang-motivated in case BA443470. Echeverria also faces gun allegations.

Arraignment is scheduled for March 8.

Deputy District Attorney Antonella Nistorescu of the Hardcore Gang Division is prosecuting the case.

Echeverria and Pineda are accused of killing Brianna Gallegos, 17, and Gabriella Calzada, 19. Both of the victims' bodies were found on Oct. 28 near a hiking trail in Ernest E. Debs Regional Park.

According to the criminal complaint, Echeverria allegedly used a rifle to kill Calzada.

Echeverria also is charged with an unrelated attempted murder on Jan. 29, as well as one count each of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and bringing contraband into a jail.

Prosecutors will decide later whether to seek the death penalty against Echeverria. Pineda is not eligible for the death penalty because he is under the age of 18. He faces a possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.